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EXAMINER
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RILEY, MARCUS T

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## DETAILED ACTION

### Response to Amendment

1. This office action is responsive to applicant's remarks received on December 27, 2007.

**Claims 1-11** remain pending.

### Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended **claims 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11** filed on December 27, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

### A: Applicant's Remarks

*In the above-identified Office Action, as understood, Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for failing to directly claim the use of a computer program. Also, all of the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of a hypothetical combination of the disclosures of the Motoyama and Ett references. In response, Claim 11 has been amended as to matters of form in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101, and each independent claim has been amended to overcome the obviousness rejection. Accordingly, all of the claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth herein.*

*In this regard, amended Claim 1 requires "designation means for designating an output method by said output means from a plurality of output methods", and further requires control means for selecting either of the first data and the second data corresponding to the specific index input by said index input means on the basis of a kind of the output method designated by said designation means from the database, and causing said output means to output the selected*

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*data in accordance with the designated output method." By virtue of amended Claim 1 having these above-noted features, it becomes possible to register the first and second data in the database in correspondence with the specific index, and to select and output either of the first and second data based on the kind of the output method upon inputting the specific index and designating the output method.*

*According to the present invention, for example, if printing is designated as the output method, the conversion of the first data to the image data can be omitted by selecting the second data (image data), thereby achieving rapid printing. On the other hand, if transmission is designated as the output method, the first data can be handled with the application software directly at the destination.*

*Referring now to the cited prior art, Applicant notes that Motoyama discloses a technique for outputting various data with various output methods. However, Motoyama does not disclose a technique for selecting either of the first and second data based on the kind of the designated output method. According to Motoyama, a user's designation is required for outputting specific data from among various data. In other words, Motoyama fails to disclose or suggest any idea of selecting data based on the kind of the output method, as required in amended Claim 1.*

*The Ett reference also fails to disclose or suggest any idea of selecting data based on the kind of the output method, wherefore Ett does not overcome the deficiencies of Motoyama as a rejecting reference.*

*In this regard, each one of the other independent claims has been amended in the same*

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*manner as Claim 1, and for these reasons it is believed that the application is in condition for the issuance of a notice of Allowance.*

**A: Examiner's Response**

In this regard, amended Claim 1 requires “designation means for designating an output method by said output means from a plurality of output methods”, and further requires control means for selecting either of the first data and the second data corresponding to the specific index input by said index input means on the basis of a kind of the output method designated by said designation means from the database, and causing said output means to output the selected data in accordance with the designated output method. By virtue of amended Claim 1 having these above-noted features, it becomes possible to register the first and second data in the database in correspondence with the specific index, and to select and output either of the first and second data based on the kind of the output method upon inputting the specific index and designating the output method.

Motoyama does disclose a technique for selecting either of the first and second data based on the kind of the designated output method. Accordingly, Motoyama '836 discloses an image processing apparatus comprising: first input means for inputting first data created by predetermined application software (“*The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the first input (block 106). As before, the prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The first input may be image data from host computer 80, scanned image data, or stored facsimile image data.*” Page 3, Paragraph 0037); second input means for inputting second data converted into image data of a predetermined format on the

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basis of the first data (*"The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the second input (block 108). The prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The second input may be any of a number of classes of image data, as was the case with the first input."* Page 3, Paragraph 0038); registration means for registering the first and second data in a database in correspondence with a specific index (*"...returning to FIG. 6, a merge request is made (block 102) and then the merge destination is selected (block 104). By way of example, the first input read (block 106) may be a copy, and the second input read (block 108) may be a registered image, as selected from the registered image selection menu of FIG. 8."* Page 4, Paragraph 0055); output means for outputting either of the first and second data which are registered in the database (*"the merged image data is routed to any of a number of locations including the printer, the host computer, DRAM, an optional disk, or the facsimile output."* Page 3, Paragraph 0040); designation means for designating an output method by said output means from a plurality of output methods (*"In accordance with the present invention, the merged image data may be conveyed to any of a number of user selectable output destinations."* Page 2, Paragraph 0035); and control means for selecting either of the first and second data corresponding to the input by said input means on the basis of a kind of the output method designated by said designation means from the database and causing said output means to output the selected data in accordance with the designated output method (*"The merge instruction may be executed in any of a number of manners. For instance, the first input first input may be fax image data which is stored in DRAM 58. The second input may be image data from host computer 80. CPU 42 will consider each pixel from the respective inputs and perform the required logical operation. The merged image data output from the logical operation may be*

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*conveyed to DRAM 46 or storage device 74 until the merge operation is completed. Thereafter, the CPU 42 uses the stored user-selected destination to create a route command. Thus, if the merged image data of the present example is to be routed to the facsimile output, then the CPU 42 would provide instructions to move the stored image data over bus 44 through interface controller 56 into fax processor 60.”* Page 3, Paragraph 0046). See also (*“In sum, the machine 10 may include a copier, a scanner, a printer, and a facsimile apparatus. Selection of the individual functions may be achieved through a control panel 34.”* Page 2, Paragraph 0026) and see (*“Finally, the merged data is transmitted to the user selectable destination (block 112). The destination was previously determined at block 104. Thus, the merged image data is routed to any of a number of locations including the printer, the host computer, DRAM, an optional disk, or the facsimile output.”* Page 2, Paragraph 0040).

Thus, Motoyama does not fail to disclose or suggest any idea of selecting data based on the kind of the output method, as required in amended Claim 1.

The Ett reference does not fail to disclose or suggest any idea of selecting data based on the kind of the output method. Ett ‘893 discloses index input means for inputting the specific index (*“It is another object of the invention to recover the Pseudo Bar Code information, converting it to standard computer coded data suitable for re-routing the facsimile or image message, or for indexing...”* column 1, lines 16-20).

Because each one of the other independent claims has been amended in the same manner as Claim 1, the application is not condition for the issuance of a notice of Allowance.

**Claim Objections**

3. **Claims 1** is objected to because of the following informalities: **Claim 1** states in part “*control means for to selecting*”. This appears to be a typographical error. Suggest deleting the word “*to*”. It is assumed for continued examination purposes that claim 1 is intended to read “*control means for selecting*”. Appropriate correction is required.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101**

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

The USPTO “Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility” (Official Gazette notice of 22 November 2005), Annex IV, reads as follows:

Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." In this context, "functional descriptive material" consists of data structures and computer programs which impart functionality when employed as a computer component. (The definition of "data structure" is "a physical or logical relationship among data elements, designed to support specific data manipulation functions." The New IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms 308 (5th ed. 1993).) "Nonfunctional descriptive material" includes but is not limited to music, literary works and a compilation or mere arrangement of data.

When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the



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function of the descriptive material to be realized. Compare *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d 1031, 1035 (Fed. Cir. 1994) (claim to data structure stored on a computer readable medium that increases computer efficiency held statutory) and *Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d at 1360-61, 31 USPQ2d at 1759 (claim to computer having a specific data structure stored in memory held statutory product-by-process claim) with *Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d at 1361, 31 USPQ2d at 1760 (claim to a data structure per se held nonstatutory).

In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory. See *Lowry*, 32 F.3d at 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d at 1035.

5. **Claim 11** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter as follows. Claim 11 defines a program stored on a computer-readable storage medium embodying functional descriptive material. However, the claim does not define a computer-readable medium or memory and is thus non-statutory for that reason (i.e., “When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized” – Guidelines Annex IV). That is, the scope of the presently claimed program stored on a computer-readable storage medium can range from paper on which the program is written, to a program simply contemplated and memorized by a person. The examiner suggests amending the claim to embody the program on “computer-readable medium” or equivalent in order to make the claim statutory. Any amendment to the claim should be commensurate with its corresponding disclosure.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1, 6, 7, & 9-11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama (US 2002/0030836 A1 hereinafter, Motoyama '836) in combination with Ett (US 5,227,893 hereinafter, Ett '893).

**Regarding claim 1;** Motoyama '836 discloses an image processing apparatus comprising: first input means for inputting first data created by predetermined application software (*"The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the first input (block 106). As before, the prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The first input may be image data from host computer 80, scanned image data, or stored facsimile image data."* Page 3, Paragraph 0037); second input means for inputting second data converted into image data of a predetermined format on the basis of the first data (*"The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the second input (block 108). The prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The second input may be any of a number of classes of image data, as was the case with the first input."* Page 3, Paragraph 0038); registration means for registering the first and second data in a database in correspondence with a specific index (*"...returning to FIG. 6, a merge request is made (block 102) and then the merge destination is selected (block 104). By way of example, the first input read (block 106) may be a copy, and the second input read (block 108) may be a registered image, as selected from the registered image selection menu of FIG. 8."* Page 4, Paragraph 0055); output means for outputting either of the first and second data which are registered in the database (*"the merged image data is routed to any of a number of locations including the*

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*printer, the host computer, DRAM, an optional disk, or the facsimile output.*” Page 3, Paragraph 0040); designation means for designating an output method by said output means from a plurality of output methods (*“In accordance with the present invention, the merged image data may be conveyed to any of a number of user selectable output destinations.”* Page 2, Paragraph 0035); and control means for selecting either of the first and second data corresponding to the input by said input means on the basis of a kind of the output method designated by said designation means from the database and causing said output means to output the selected data in accordance with the designated output method (*“The merge instruction may be executed in any of a number of manners. For instance, the first input first input may be fax image data which is stored in DRAM 58. The second input may be image data from host computer 80. CPU 42 will consider each pixel from the respective inputs and perform the required logical operation. The merged image data output from the logical operation may be conveyed to DRAM 46 or storage device 74 until the merge operation is completed. Thereafter, the CPU 42 uses the stored user-selected destination to create a route command. Thus, if the merged image data of the present example is to be routed to the facsimile output, then the CPU 42 would provide instructions to move the stored image data over bus 44 through interface controller 56 into fax processor 60.”* Page 3, Paragraph 0046). See also (*“In sum, the machine 10 may include a copier, a scanner, a printer, and a facsimile apparatus. Selection of the individual functions may be achieved through a control panel 34.”* Page 2, Paragraph 0026) and see (*“Finally, the merged data is transmitted to the user selectable destination (block 112). The destination was previously determined at block 104. Thus, the merged image data is routed to any of a number of locations including the*

*printer, the host computer, DRAM, an optional disk, or the facsimile output.*" Page 2, Paragraph 0040).

Motoyama '836 does not expressly disclose index input means for inputting the specific index.

Ett '893 discloses index input means for inputting the specific index (*"It is another object of the invention to recover the Pseudo Bar Code information, converting it to standard computer coded data suitable for re-routing the facsimile or image message, or for indexing..."* column 1, lines 16-20);

Motoyama '836 and Ett '893 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of image processing apparatuses (*"It is another object of the present invention to incorporation of said code pattern into the image portion of a facsimile or other image transmission in such a manner as to be transparent to the system, the network, and users."* Ett '893 at column 2, lines 25-29).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify image processing unit as taught by Motoyama '836 by adding index input means for inputting the specific index as taught by Ett '893.

The motivation for doing so would have been to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users. (*"This invention combines some of the attributes of commonly used Bar Codes with facsimile in a manner such as to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users."* Ett '893 at column 2, lines 13-17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Motoyama '836 with Ett '893 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

**Regarding claim 6;** Motoyama '836 discloses The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said output means includes said printing means, and when the output method designated by said designation means is printed by said printing means, said control means so controls as to select the second data and cause said printing means to print an image based on the second data (*"The instructions of the routine provide a prompt for the destination of the merged data. This prompt is sent by bus 44 through interface controller 1 (52) or through interface controller 2, depending upon where the merge request originated from. In the case of an instruction routed through interface controller 1, a prompt is provided on LCD 36. For instance, a suitable prompt would be "Enter Merged Data Destination". The data destination would then be entered through the use of one of the control panel 34 keys, for instance, the "print" key, or by using the cursor control keys 35 on the control panel 34. An analogous procedure is undertaken in the case of an instruction routed through interface controller 2. In this instance, the prompt is provided on computer monitor 82 of host computer 80. The data destination would then be entered through the keyboard or mouse associated with the host computer. In either embodiment, the destination is read and stored in one of the memory devices (DRAM 46 or storage device 74). Subsequently, prompts are provided in an analogous manner for the first input and the second input. The first and second inputs are read and stored in one of the memory devices. Afterwards, the merge instruction is executed. The merge instruction may be executed in any of a number of manners. For instance, the first input may be fax image data which is stored in DRAM 58. The second input may be image data from host computer 80."* Page 3, Paragraphs 0043-0046).

**Regarding claim 7;** Motoyama '836 discloses wherein the apparatus further comprises transmission means for transmitting data as one of said output means, and when the output method designated by said designation means is transmission by said transmission means, said control means so controls as to cause said transmission means to transmit the first data ("*...the merged data is transmitted to the user selectable destination (block 112). The destination was previously determined at block 104. Thus, the merged image data is routed to any of a number of locations including the printer, the host computer, DRAM, an optional disk, or the facsimile output. The particular execution of these instructions on the multi-function machine 10 is more fully appreciated with reference to FIG. 3. The merge request is received by CPU 42 via bus 44 through either interface controller 1 (52), in the case of a request from the control panel 34, or through interface controller 2 (54), in the case of a request from the host computer 80.*" Page 3, Paragraphs 0040-0041).

**Regarding claim 9;** Motoyama '836 discloses an image processing method comprising: a first input step of inputting first data created by predetermined application software ("*The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the first input (block 106). As before, the prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The first input may be image data from host computer 80, scanned image data, or stored facsimile image data.*" Page 3, Paragraph 0037); a second input step of inputting second data converted into image data of a predetermined format on the basis of the first data ("*The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the second input (block 108). The prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The second input may be any of a number of classes of image data, as was the case with the first input.*" Page 3, Paragraph 0038); a

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registration step of registering the first and second data in a database in correspondence with a specific index (“...returning to FIG. 6, a merge request is made (block 102) and then the merge destination is selected (block 104). By way of example, the first input read (block 106) may be a copy, and the second input read (block 108) may be a registered image, as selected from the registered image selection menu of FIG. 8.” Page 4, Paragraph 0055); a designation step of designating an output method of the data registered in the database from a plurality of output methods (“In accordance with the present invention, the merged image data may be conveyed to any of a number of user selectable output destinations.” Page 2, Paragraph 0035); and an output step of selecting either of the first and second data corresponding to the input by said input means on the basis of a kind of the output method designated from the database in the designation step, and outputting the selected data in accordance with the designated output method (“The merge instruction may be executed in any of a number of manners. For instance, the first input first input may be fax image data which is stored in DRAM 58. The second input may be image data from host computer 80. CPU 42 will consider each pixel from the respective inputs and perform the required logical operation. The merged image data output from the logical operation may be conveyed to DRAM 46 or storage device 74 until the merge operation is completed. Thereafter, the CPU 42 uses the stored user-selected destination to create a route command. Thus, if the merged image data of the present example is to be routed to the facsimile output, then the CPU 42 would provide instructions to move the stored image data over bus 44 through interface controller 56 into fax processor 60.” Page 2, Paragraph 0046). See also (“In sum, the machine 10 may include a copier, a scanner, a printer, and a facsimile apparatus. Selection of the individual functions may be achieved through a control panel 34.” Page 2,

Paragraph 0026) and see (*“Finally, the merged data is transmitted to the user selectable destination (block 112). The destination was previously determined at block 104. Thus, the merged image data is routed to any of a number of locations including the printer, the host computer, DRAM, an optional disk, or the facsimile output.”* Page 2, Paragraph 0040).

Motoyama ‘836 does not expressly disclose an index input step of inputting the specific index.

Ett ‘893 discloses an index input step of inputting the specific index (*“It is another object of the invention to recover the Pseudo Bar Code information, converting it to standard computer coded data suitable for re-routing the facsimile or image message, or for indexing...”* column 1, lines 16-20).

Motoyama ‘836 and Ett ‘893 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of image processing apparatuses (*“It is another object of the present invention to incorporation of said code pattern into the image portion of a facsimile or other image transmission in such a manner as to be transparent to the system, the network, and users.”* Ett ‘893 at column 2, lines 25-29).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify image processing unit as taught by Motoyama ‘836 by adding index input means for inputting the specific index as taught by Ett ‘893.

The motivation for doing so would have been to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users. (*“This invention combines some of the attributes of commonly used Bar Codes with*



*facsimile in a manner such as to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users.*" Ett '893 at column 2, lines 13-17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Motoyama '836 with Ett '893 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

**Regarding claim 10;** Motoyama '836 discloses a program which causes a computer to execute a first input step of inputting first data created by predetermined application software (*"The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the first input (block 106). As before, the prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The first input may be image data from host computer 80, scanned image data, or stored facsimile image data."* Page 3, Paragraph 0037); a second input step of inputting second data converted into image data of a predetermined format on the basis of the first data (*"The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the second input (block 108). The prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The second input may be any of a number of classes of image data, as was the case with the first input."* Page 3, Paragraph 0038); a registration step of registering the first and second data in a database in correspondence with a specific index (*"...returning to FIG. 6, a merge request is made (block 102) and then the merge destination is selected (block 104). By way of example, the first input read (block 106) may be a copy, and the second input read (block 108) may be a registered image, as selected from the registered image selection menu of FIG. 8."* Page 4, Paragraph 0055); a designation step of designating an output method of the data registered in the database from a plurality of output methods (*"In accordance with the present invention, the merged image data may be*

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*conveyed to any of a number of user selectable output destinations.” Page 2, Paragraph 0035); and an output step of selecting either of the first and second data corresponding to the input by said input means on the basis of a kind of the output method designated from the database in the designation step and outputting the selected data in accordance with the designated output method (“The merge instruction may be executed in any of a number of manners. For instance, the first input first input may be fax image data which is stored in DRAM 58. The second input may be image data from host computer 80. CPU 42 will consider each pixel from the respective inputs and perform the required logical operation. The merged image data output from the logical operation may be conveyed to DRAM 46 or storage device 74 until the merge operation is completed. Thereafter, the CPU 42 uses the stored user-selected destination to create a route command. Thus, if the merged image data of the present example is to be routed to the facsimile output, then the CPU 42 would provide instructions to move the stored image data over bus 44 through interface controller 56 into fax processor 60.” Page 2, Paragraph 0046). See also (“In sum, the machine 10 may include a copier, a scanner, a printer, and a facsimile apparatus. Selection of the individual functions may be achieved through a control panel 34.” Page 2, Paragraph 0026) and see (“Finally, the merged data is transmitted to the user selectable destination (block 112). The destination was previously determined at block 104. Thus, the merged image data is routed to any of a number of locations including the printer, the host computer, DRAM, an optional disk, or the facsimile output.” Page 2, Paragraph 0040).*

Motoyama ‘836 does not expressly disclose an index input step of inputting the specific index.

Ett '893 discloses an index input step of inputting the specific index (*"It is another object of the invention to recover the Pseudo Bar Code information, converting it to standard computer coded data suitable for re-routing the facsimile or image message, or for indexing..."* column 1, lines 16-20).

Motoyama '836 and Ett '893 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of image processing apparatuses (*"It is another object of the present invention to incorporation of said code pattern into the image portion of a facsimile or other image transmission in such a manner as to be transparent to the system, the network, and users."* Ett '893 at column 2, lines 25-29).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify image processing unit as taught by Motoyama '836 by adding an index input step of inputting the specific index as taught by Ett '893.

The motivation for doing so would have been to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users. (*"This invention combines some of the attributes of commonly used Bar Codes with facsimile in a manner such as to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users."* Ett '893 at column 2, lines 13-17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Motoyama '836 with Ett '893 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

**Regarding claim 11;** Motoyama '836 discloses a program stored on a computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to execute a first input step of

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inputting first data created by predetermined application software (*"The routing destination is where the merged image data is sent. For instance, the merged image data may be sent to the printer for printing, to the host computer, to DRAM, to a storage device, or to the facsimile, as to be more fully described below. The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the first input (block 106). As before, the prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The first input may be image data from host computer 80, scanned image data, or stored facsimile image data."* Page 3, Paragraphs 0036-0037); a second input step of inputting second data converted into image data of a predetermined format on the basis of the first data (*"The multi-function machine 10 then provides a prompt to read the second input (block 108). The prompt may be provided on LCD 36, or on the monitor 82 of host computer 80. The second input may be any of a number of classes of image data, as was the case with the first input."* Page 3, Paragraph 0038); a registration step of registering the first and second data in a database in correspondence with a specific index (*"...returning to FIG. 6, a merge request is made (block 102) and then the merge destination is selected (block 104). By way of example, the first input read (block 106) may be a copy, and the second input read (block 108) may be a registered image, as selected from the registered image selection menu of FIG. 8."* Page 4, Paragraph 0055); a designation step of designating an output method of the data registered in the database from a plurality of output methods (*"In accordance with the present invention, the merged image data may be conveyed to any of a number of user selectable output destinations."* Page 2, Paragraph 0035); and an output step of selecting either of the first and second data corresponding to the input by said input means on the basis of a kind of the output method designated from the database in the designation step and outputting the selected data in

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accordance with the designated output method (*"The merge instruction may be executed in any of a number of manners. For instance, the first input first input may be fax image data which is stored in DRAM 58. The second input may be image data from host computer 80. CPU 42 will consider each pixel from the respective inputs and perform the required logical operation. The merged image data output from the logical operation may be conveyed to DRAM 46 or storage device 74 until the merge operation is completed. Thereafter, the CPU 42 uses the stored user-selected destination to create a route command. Thus, if the merged image data of the present example is to be routed to the facsimile output, then the CPU 42 would provide instructions to move the stored image data over bus 44 through interface controller 56 into fax processor 60."* Page 2, Paragraph 0046). See also (*"In sum, the machine 10 may include a copier, a scanner, a printer, and a facsimile apparatus. Selection of the individual functions may be achieved through a control panel 34."* Page 2, Paragraph 0026) and see (*"Finally, the merged data is transmitted to the user selectable destination (block 112). The destination was previously determined at block 104. Thus, the merged image data is routed to any of a number of locations including the printer, the host computer, DRAM, an optional disk, or the facsimile output."* Page 2, Paragraph 0040).

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Ett '893 discloses an index input step of inputting the specific index (*"It is another object of the invention to recover the Pseudo Bar Code information, converting it to standard computer coded data suitable for re-routing the facsimile or image message, or for indexing..."* column 1, lines 16-20).

Motoyama '836 and Ett '893 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of image processing apparatuses (*"It is another object of the present invention to incorporation of said code pattern into the image portion of a facsimile or other image transmission in such a manner as to be transparent to the system, the network, and users."* Ett '893 at column 2, lines 25-29).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify image processing unit as taught by Motoyama '836 by adding an index input step of inputting the specific index as taught by Ett '893.

The motivation for doing so would have been to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users. (*"This invention combines some of the attributes of commonly used Bar Codes with facsimile in a manner such as to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users."* Ett '893 at column 2, lines 13-17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Motoyama '836 with Ett '893 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

8. **Claims 2-5 & 8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama '836 in combination with Ett '893.

**Regarding claim 2;** Motoyama '836 as modified does not expressly disclose where the apparatus further comprises printing means for printing an image obtained by synthesizing information representing the index and the second data input by said second input means, and

said index input means inputs the information representing the index by reading, by a reading device, the image which is obtained by synthesizing the information representing the index and the data input by said second input means and is printed by said printing means.

Ett '893 discloses where the apparatus further comprises printing means for printing an image obtained by synthesizing the information representing the index and the second data input by said second input means, and said index input means inputs the information representing the index by reading, by a reading device, the image which is obtained by synthesizing the information representing the index and the data input by said second input means and is printed by said printing means (*"The initial or start character enables the pseudo bar code decode module 52 to determine the density used. The decoded ASCII characters are then used to define the routing, destination, or storage index, thus permitting incoming facsimile messages to be handled without an operator. In an alternate, but less preferred embodiment, the black and white stripe of the pseudo bar code itself is used to define routing or indexing procedures without translation to the alphanumeric character stream. The received facsimile messages can be displayed on the display 18, or printed on the printer 22, or may be sent to a Host computer via host connections 30 and host communication line 56, or via the facsimile modem 28 and the PSTN 56 to another facsimile system, with the same or new imbedded routing/indexing information."* column 5, lines 56-67 thru column 6, lines 1-3).

Motoyama '836 and Ett '893 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of image processing apparatuses (*"It is another object of the present invention to incorporation of said code pattern into the image portion of a facsimile or other image*

*transmission in such a manner as to be transparent to the system, the network, and users.*" Ett '893 at column 2, lines 25-29).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify image processing unit as taught by Motoyama '836 by adding where the apparatus further comprises printing means for printing an image obtained by synthesizing the information representing the index and the second data input by said second input means, and said index input means inputs the information representing the index by reading, by a reading device, the image which is obtained by synthesizing the information representing the index and the data input by said second input means and is printed by said printing means as taught by Ett '893.

The motivation for doing so would have been to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users. (*"This invention combines some of the attributes of commonly used Bar Codes with facsimile in a manner such as to permit the embedding of data needed for indexing, or further routing, within the image in machine readable form, which is transparent to the users."* Ett '893 at column 2, lines 13-17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Motoyama '836 with Ett '893 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

**Regarding claim 3;** Ett '893 discloses where the information representing the index is expressed by a barcode (*"FIG. 3A shows a typical string of bar codes in code 39, with a start character 78, data characters 80, a check data character 82, and a stop character 84. The start*



*78 and stop 84 characters are identical and contain information needed to define the widths of the bars and spaces in the ensuing code patterns.” column 6, lines 34-39).*

**Regarding claim 4;** Ett ‘893 discloses where the information representing the index is expressed by a character string (*“FIG. 3A shows a typical string of bar codes in code 39, with a start character 78, data characters 80, a check data character 82, and a stop character 84. The start 78 and stop 84 characters are identical and contain information needed to define the widths of the bars and spaces in the ensuing code patterns.”* column 6, lines 34-39).

**Regarding claim 5;** Ett ‘893 discloses where the information representing the index is expressed by each character spacing in a predetermined character string (*“The initial or start character enables the pseudo bar code decode module 52 to determine the density used. The decoded ASCII characters are then used to define the routing, destination, or storage index...”* column 5, lines 56-59). See also (*“FIG. 3A shows a typical string of bar codes in code 39, with a start character 78, data characters 80, a check data character 82, and a stop character 84. The start 78 and stop 84 characters are identical and contain information needed to define the widths of the bars and spaces in the ensuing code patterns.”* column 6, lines 34-39).

**Regarding claim 8;** Ett ‘893 discloses where the database is constructed by a terminal connected via a network (*“It is another object of the present invention to incorporation of said code pattern into the image portion of a facsimile or other image transmission in such a manner as to be transparent to the system, the network, and users.”* column 2, lines 25-29).

**Conclusion**

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARCUS T. RILEY whose telephone number is (571)270-1581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30-5:00, est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler L. Haskins can be reached on 571-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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